

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 5, 2016 Contact: Senator Jerry Petrowski (608) 266-2502

Six Bills Authored by Senator Petrowski Signed into Law

MADISON, WI... Yesterday, Governor Scott Walker signed six bills authored by Senator Jerry Petrowski (*R-Marathon*) into law. These bills addressed various issues, including the improvement of crucial state agency services and permanency planning options for children in out-of-home care and providing regulation for intrastate carriers of hazardous materials.

Senate Bill 308, co-authored by Representative Amy Loudenbeck (*R-Clinton*), allows a prospective successor guardian to be named at the time an original subsidized guardianship agreement is made. This successor guardian can immediately assume care of the child on the sudden death or incapacitation of the original guardian.

"In these situations, the interests and well-being of the child should always come first. Senate Bill 308 will help ensure a smoother and simpler transition in the event of a guardian's death or incapacitation. It will help preserve stability in the child's life at a time when they need it most," said Senator Petrowski.

Senate Bill 309, co-authored by Representative Loudenbeck, establishes a reasonable and prudent standard for out-of-home care workers to make decisions concerning the participation of a child in age appropriate social or school related activities. The bill requires the agency responsible for preparing the permanency plan for a child 14 years of age or over to prepare the plan in consultation with the child, requiring the plan to prepare the child for the transition to adulthood.

"I am pleased to see this important legislation signed into law," said Senator Petrowski. "It eliminates the undue burden and lengthy process children in out-of-home care currently go through in order to attend school and social events that are an important part of growing up."

Senate Bill 304, co-authored by Representative David Heaton (R - Wausau), eliminates and amends various rules that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) has deemed obsolete and outdated. These rules deal with a number of areas, including governing the certification of child care operators, the licensing of child welfare agencies, the operation of child care centers and eliminating rules publicized by DCF related to retaining public assistance case records.

Governor Walker also signed the following bills authored by Senator Petrowski into law:

Senate Bill 319, co-authored by Representative Keith Ripp (*R-Lodi*), allows vehicles in the leftmost right-turn lane of a roadway that provides two right-turn lanes make a right turn on a red signal light into the second rightmost lane regardless of whether lanes of moving traffic must be crossed. This gives local authorities an additional tool to manage the flow of traffic on roads, without inhibiting their ability to post signs prohibiting the turn.

Assembly Bill 424, co-authored by Representative Ripp, requires that the certificates and licenses required to operate as an interstate carrier are also required for intrastate carriers. The bill allows the State Patrol to conduct motor carrier enforcement of intrastate motor carriers using the same standards used for interstate carriers, which enables the reasonable and effective enforcement of traffic safety on Wisconsin roadways.

Assembly Bill 426, co-authored by Representative Ripp, requires a person operating any motor vehicle on a highway carrying a controlled quantity of radiological materials to have a single-trip permit issued by the Department of Transportation. The bill requires the loads be escorted by State Patrol over a designated highway route, and establishes a fee for the permit.